

Application No.: 10/057,667
Amendment and Response dated July 30, 2003
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A. Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the subject application, and please amend the claims as follows:

a1 1. (original) A method of making a tubular stent/graft assembly comprising the steps of (i) forming a substantially planar strip and wire assembly comprising planar graft material formable into a graft and planar stent wire formable into a radially adjustable stent, wherein said wire is attached lengthwise along the length of said planar strip; and (ii) helically winding said substantially planar strip and wire assembly to form said tubular stent/graft assembly.

2. (original) The method of claim 1 further including forming said planar strip and wire assembly by positioning said planar stent wire between two layers of said planar graft material.

3. (original) The method of claim 2 wherein said layers of planar graft material are laminated together.

4. (original) The method of claim 3 wherein said planar strip and wire assembly comprises multiple layers of graft material on each side of said stent wire.

5. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the planar graft material is a non-textile strip of polymeric graft material.

6. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of helically winding said substantially planar strip and wire assembly further includes winding the assembly so that at least two consecutive windings overlap.

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A 7. (original) The method of claim 1, wherein the step of helically winding said substantially planar strip and wire assembly further includes winding the assembly so that consecutive windings do not overlap.

8. (original) A method of making a stent/graft assembly comprising:
forming a substantially planar graft and stent material assembly comprising graft material and stent material; and
winding said substantially planar graft and stent assembly to form said stent/graft assembly.

9. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of forming said substantially planar graft and stent assembly further includes undulating said stent material along its length.

10. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said stent material is an elongate stent wire.

11. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein said graft material is a non-textile planar strip of polymeric graft material.

12. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of forming said substantially planar graft and stent material assembly further includes positioning said stent material between two layers of graft material.

13. (original) The method of claim 12, further including the step of laminating said two layers of graft material together.

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A 14. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of winding said substantially planar graft and stent assembly includes winding said assembly so that at least two consecutive windings overlap.

15. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of winding said substantially planar graft and stent assembly includes winding said assembly so that consecutive windings do not overlap.

16. (original) The method of claim 8, wherein the step of winding said substantially planar graft and stent assembly further includes helically winding said assembly to form a tubular structure.

** 17. (new) A method of making a tubular stent/graft assembly comprising the steps of (i) forming a substantially planar strip and stent assembly comprising planar graft material formable into a graft and a planar stent formable into a radially adjustable stent, wherein said planar stent is attached along the length of said planar strip; and (ii) helically winding said substantially planar strip and stent assembly to form said tubular stent/graft assembly.

18. (new) The method of claim 17 further including forming said planar strip and stent assembly by positioning said planar stent assembly between two layers of said planar graft material.

19. (new) The method of claim 18 wherein said layers of planar graft material are laminated together.

20. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein the planar graft material is a non-textile strip of polymeric graft material.

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A 21. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of helically winding said substantially planar strip and stent assembly further includes winding the assembly so that at least two consecutive windings overlap.

22. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein the step of helically winding said substantially planar strip and stent assembly further includes winding the assembly so that consecutive windings do not overlap.

23. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein said planar stent comprises a plurality of stent wires.

24. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein said planar stent comprises a plurality of linked stent wires.

25. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein said planar stent is comprised of nitinol.

26. (new) The method of claim 17 wherein said planar stent is attached lengthwise along the length of said planar strip.